2007 UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS

Trust Fund for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Regional Activities .....

Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Transnational Corporations .....

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) .....

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) .....

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) .....

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) .....

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) .....

Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) .....

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (CPCJF) .....

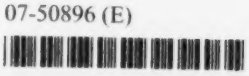
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) .....

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) .....

Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia .....

Trust Fund for Travel Assistance to Developing States Members of UNCITRAL .....

07-50896 (E)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Drylands Development Center (formerly UNDP's Office to Combat Desertification and Drought)

Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing

United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability

United Nations Youth Fund

United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues/Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Trust Fund for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Regional Activities

The resources of the Trust Fund for the ESCWA Regional Activities allow ESCWA to complement its substantive work with operational activities. Activities financed from the Trust Fund are aligned with the ESCWA-identified priority areas, namely: globalization and regional integration, sustainable management of water and energy, social policies, and information and communication technologies; post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine; advancement of women; and statistics. At the same time, the Trust Fund provides the flexibility necessary for addressing emerging issues at the national, sub-regional, and regional level.

During the biennium 2006-2007, the Trust Fund financed fifteen projects, committing close to US$ 1 million. Among the most important achievements is the completion of a needs assessment of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the ESCWA region, which identified significant managerial and technical shortcomings and weaknesses. In response, the Seventh session of the Statistical Committee adopted a plan of implementation for 2007-2009. The Trust Fund also financed a booklet with guidelines for more gender-inclusive MDG monitoring and reporting. The booklet, supported by all UN agencies in the region through the Regional Coordination Group, is gaining high visibility in ESCWA countries. The initiation of pilot renewable energy facilities in

Yemen has also been supported by the Trust Fund, which provided seed money for organizing trainings and for equipping rural Yemeni villages with photovoltaic panels.

Conformant with the results-based management approach, all proposals financed from the Trust Fund are rigorously assessed for relevance, sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness. Regular monitoring is undertaken throughout project implementation, to ensure timely delivery of expected outcomes. Performance assessment and final evaluation is always undertaken, with a view to disseminating good practices and lessons learned. More information on the Trust Fund is available at: http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/pptcd/upload/TrustFund.pdf

Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Transnational Corporations

The Trust Fund is intended to respond to requests for developing countries for technical co-operation in matters related to establishing a favorable environment for investment, including the legal and institutional framework, and to strengthening investment promotion efforts. The funds will be used particularly for interventions in which: (a) the government's request requires immediate attention and response; (b) the assistance is expected to be catalytic rather than open ended; and (c) the need is of a specific policy-oriented nature.

The following types of technical assistance activities are being carried out through the Advisory Services on Investment, and Training of UNCTAD's Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development:

i. formulating foreign investment policy;

ii. modifying or drafting investment codes and other investment-related legislation which set out the guarantees and incentives offered to foreign investors;

iii. training in investment promotion and targeting, including regional workshops on "best practices";

iv. regional and inter-regional information exchange between Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) through the development of an institutionalized support network;

v. evaluating, structuring and negotiating joint ventures agreements and other contractual arrangements, including Build-Operate-Transfer arrangements, relating to foreign investment.

United Nations Children's Fund

(UNICEF)

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund was established on 11 December 1946 to respond to the needs of millions of displaced and refugee children in the aftermath of World War II. Over the next sixty years UNICEF evolved from an emergency fund to a development agency whose mission is to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. At the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 the world leaders committed to elimination of global poverty and discrimination by 2015 through the Millennium Declaration and eight Millennium Development Goals. UNICEF works with governments, UN organizations and civil society to ensure that children are integral to the MDGs and that the promises of economic, political and social development are met.

UNICEF's achievement of the global goals of the UN Millennium Declaration and the success of UNICEF's medium-term strategic plan depends in large part on the regular and predictable growth of total income - especially regular resources. Member States are aware of the fact that regular resources enable UNICEF to support national capacity development, to retain core managerial and technical capacities, including the capability to

strengthen institutions in normative areas of programming, and to provide intellectual leadership to achieve results for children. With adequate and predictable regular resources income, UNICEF will be in a better position to obtain additional other resources to expand programmes of cooperation, including the leveraging of public and private partnerships for children. It is therefore crucial that an increased level of regular resources be secured.

In 2006, UNICEF's regular resources contributions from Governments were US$466 million, a decrease of US$3 million (1%) over 2005 and a decrease of US$22 million (5%) over UNICEF's 2006 medium term financial plan. Total regular resources contributions from all sources were US$1,056 million, an increase of US$244 million or 30 per cent over US$812 million received in 2005, mostly thanks to the increase of regular resources from private sector contributions. The proportion of regular resources to total income is 38%, which is an improvement over the lowest-ever ratio of 29% in 2005, however it is still of concern for UNICEF. Although there is no prescribed "optimal balance" between regular and other resources, a 50% or lower proportion of RR to total resources is less than optimal for UNICEF to fulfil its mandate.

UNICEF's financial medium-term strategic plan forecasts a regular resources income target of US$ 527 million for 2007 from Governments. UNICEF expects to meet this target, a 13 per cent increase over 2006, based on pledges and indications received from donor governments.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(UNITAR)

UNITAR was established by the General Assembly with the purpose of *"enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in achieving the major objectives of the Organization, ... in particular the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development,"* through training and research. UNITAR is totally self-funded, receiving no subsidies from the United Nations Regular Budget for its administration or for its programmes.

Over the last few years, UNITAR successfully managed to mobilize funds for Special Purpose Programmes for training and capacity-building in environmental management, sustainable development, information and communication technologies, decentralized cooperation, etc. Each year, UNITAR's programmes benefit close to 25,000 persons: 10,000 through workshops and seminars and 15,000 through e-learning and correspondence instruction.

Besides the Special Purpose Grants, UNITAR depends on a General Fund established by voluntary contributions pledged by Member States. This fund is essential to the activities of UNITAR. It covers the costs of the training programmes offered, free of charge, to diplomats and delegates accredited to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Following various resolutions of the General Assembly, UNITAR is considering extending its programmes to Nairobi and *"cities hosting regional commissions."* This appears impossible with the present level of the

voluntary contributions. In its last resolution (59/252), the General Assembly thus *renewed its appeal to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute.* This pressing appeal is submitted to the attention of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

By motivating and assisting intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations worldwide, UN-INSTRAW plays a critical role in advancing the global agenda for gender equality, development and peace. As a major catalyst in gender initiatives, UN-INSTRAW promotes applied research on gender issues, facilitates knowledge management, and supports capacity-building through interactive networking and multi-stakeholder partnerships with UN agencies, governments, civil society and academic institutes. Its objectives include: conducting applied research to assess the implementation of gender perspectives in development policies, programmes and projects; consolidating international agreements through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the MDGs and other instruments; expanding commitments to gender mainstreaming; facilitating women's access to information for development and effective dissemination of gender-related knowledge to support governments, civil society and NGOs; and supporting practical capacity-building for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. Current areas of work include gender and migration (remittances and development, global care chains, masculinities); gender, peace and security (security sector reform and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325); gender, governance and women's political participation; and gender mainstreaming throughout the UN System and with Member States.

UN-INSTRAW's revitalization process, initiated in 2003, was guided by its Strategic Framework 2004-2007, and as a result of its implementation, UN-INSTRAW has achieved recognition for its pioneering work. A new Strategic Framework for 2008-2011 further builds upon the Institute's experience and will address new and emerging issues such as poverty alleviation, capacity-building in microenterprises, information and communications technologies, health, education, peacebuilding, environment and other areas of concern to Member States. To be able to include activities in these new areas, the Institute will require additional resources for its core activities. In recognition of its expertise in gender issues, by July 2007, the Institute had secured commitments amounting to US$5 million for the implementation of extra-budgetary projects through the year 2010. An additional US$4 million in project funding is currently in the advanced stages of negotiation.

UN-INSTRAW is funded entirely through voluntary contributions from UN Member States and other donors. The Institute requires funding for its core activities in order to be able to comply with the mandates received from Member States aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.

United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA)

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

The close links between development and reproductive health and gender equality, the other main areas of UNFPA's work, were affirmed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. UNFPA is guided in its work by the Programme of Action adopted there. Reaching the goals of the Programme of Action is also essential for achieving the Millenium Development goals.

Every minute, a woman in the developing world dies from treatable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Every minute, a family is devastated. The lives of surviving children are put to risk. Communities suffer. UNFPA's strategy for preventing maternal mortality includes: family planning to reduce unintended pregnancies, skilled attendance at all births and timely emergency obstetric care for all women who develop complications. UNFPA also advocates at many levels for the right of mothers to give birth safely. It spearheads the global Campaign to End Fistula, a collaborative initiative to prevent this devastating injury of childbirth and to restore the

health and dignity of those who have been living with its consequences. In 2005, more than 3 million people died from AIDS, and 5 million were newly infected. Each day, 14,000 people – half of them aged 15-24 – acquire the infection. Women are increasingly at risk. Prevention, the centerpiece to UNFPA's fight against the disease, is being integrated into reproductive health programming around the world.

Without essential commodities, from contraceptives to testing kits for obstetric care, people cannot fully exercise the right to reproductive health. UNFPA takes a lead role in reproductive health commodity security, by forecasting needs, mobilizing support, building logistical capacity at the country level and coordinating the whole process.

In 2005, UNFPA continued to respond to humanitarian crises. UNFPA continued working to restore reproductive health services and address the psychosocial needs of over one million people affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. UNFPA raised over $27 million for tsunami relief. UNFPA also moved rapidly in response to the earthquake that hit northern Pakistan by dispatching emergency medicines, equipment and supplies to the hardest hit regions. Emergency assistance was also provided to Sudanese refugees because of the crisis in Darfur.

UNFPA supports programmes in four regions: the (1) Arab States, Central Asia and Europe; (b) Asia and the Pacific; (c) Latin America and the Caribbean; and (d) Africa. UNFPA works in 148 countries, areas and territories through 9 Country Technical Services Teams and 112 Country Offices. Seventy seven percent of UNFPA staff work in the field.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

(UNODC)

MANDATE, POLICY AND STRATEGY

Under the overall guidance of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Conference of State parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the Conference of State parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aims to substantially help the international community meet its obligations under the various relevant treaties and all the universal legal instruments against terrorism.

In the United Nations Millennium Declaration the General Assembly established the achievement of sustainable development as an aim of the Organization. Sustainable development has many dimensions. It requires that the resources of the planet be shared so as to promote human dignity. It also requires good stewardship of those resources so that future generations may inherit a better world. Moreover, it is important to free individuals from the burden of "uncivil" behaviour in order to safeguard their survival, dignity and livelihood and assist in regenerating community values to prevent crime. This aspect is at the core of the work of the UNODC, which is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, transnational crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Action against the world drug problem, global criminal activity, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting and require an integrated and balanced approach.

The focus of the 2008-2009 Programme Budget is to clearly delineate and operationalise the position of the UNODC within the general nexus of development, security and human rights. Some of the key tools to be used in order to achieve this are: improved horizontal integration, strengthening participation in system-wide operational plans and institutionalisation of results based management through articulation and implementation of a new strategy.

The three pillars of the UNODC work programme are:

(a) Research and analytical work to enhance knowledge of thematic and cross-sectoral trends for effective policy formulation, operational response and impact assessment in drugs and crime.

(b) Normative work to promote adoption and adherence to international legal instruments and standards and norms in criminal justice and drug control.

(c) Field-based technical cooperation projects, upon request, to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and counteract illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism.

Globalisation has created an environment where illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations can flow easily across borders. The welfare gains to be derived from open trade and the flow of public goods are offset, however, by the globalisation of threats to the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals. The interventions of the UNODC are therefore designed to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all: making the world safer from crime, drugs, corruption and terrorism. The UNODC Field Office network that is financed through extra-budgetary resources plays a vital role in promoting ratification and adherence to the relevant universal legal instruments. Provision of technical expertise in situ and when required is often the key factor in ensuring members states' substantial fulfilment of their treaty obligations.

This vision is comprehensive and forward-looking and sets the frame of the UNODC's medium-term strategy (2008-2011), which was adopted by its governing bodies at their sessions in early 2007. The new strategy has positioned UNODC well for increased partnership strategies with major players in related fields.

UNODC carries out its activities in cooperation with other departments and offices of the Secretariat and entities of the United Nations system, in particular with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Bank, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN-Habitat, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and entities external to the United Nations,

such as the European Commission (EC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union (AU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, The OPEC Fund for International Development, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, members of the network institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Such collaboration and cooperation include the preparation of reports, participation in meetings, briefings, technical assistance, training and the sharing of information and experience.

FUNDING

The UNODC budget proposed for the 2008-2009 biennium amounts to $326 million. Not more than $36 million (11%) will be funded from UN regular budget resources. The lion's share of the budget, i.e. $290 million (89%) needs to be mobilised through voluntary donor contributions. Funding of UNODC is channeled through two relevant funding mechanisms which are administered directly by the Executive Director of UNODC, namely:

The Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

The Fund of UNDCP was established as of 1 January 1992, under the General Assembly resolution 46/185. The proposed budget for 2008-2009 amounts to $212 million, of which $ 25 million for core budget support (general purpose funding).

UNDCP Fund resources are used to finance technical assistance in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as global activities. Resources are allocated to the following areas: suppression of illicit drug trafficking; prevention and reduction of drug abuse; illicit crop monitoring; alternative development; anti-money laundering; and drug threat and risk analysis (evidence-based research).

The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (CPCJF)

The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was established by the General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991. The proposed budget for 2008-2009 amounts to $78 million, of which $4.0 million for core budget support (general purpose funding).

CPCJF resources are used to finance technical assistance under the UNODC global programmes covering areas such as: counter-terrorism; transnational organised

crime (e.g. human trafficking); criminal justice reform; corruption and asset recovery; and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) which was established by ECOSOC in 1968 with the aim of assisting intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations in the formulation and implementation of policies in the field of crime prevention and control through research, training, advisory services and dissemination of information.

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

UNICRI was established by ECOSOC in 1968 with the aim of assisting intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations in the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control through research, training, field activities and collection, exchange and dissemination of information. The Institute is solely funded through voluntary contributions to the UNICRI sub account of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The contributions, including in-kind contributions (such as specialized personnel secondments, Associate Experts, expert participation and equipment), are made by governments, international organizations and public or private institutions.

In line with the priorities established by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNICRI has been assisting countries worldwide, especially

developing countries, to prevent and combat old and new forms of deviance and criminality including juvenile delinquency, organized crime, corruption, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and terrorism. The Institute has been contributing to enhance institutional capacity in the field of juvenile justice, administration of criminal justice and publication and dissemination of laws. UNICRI is also designing projects focused on migration, crime prevention and migrant's integration, and on counterfeiting. Programmes also include raising awareness activities and social components particularly focused on victims' and witnesses' assistance.

UNICRI is currently implementing projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

(UNCITRAL)

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was established by the General Assembly with resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade. In the years since its establishment, UNCITRAL has become the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The Commission is composed of 60 member States, which represent the world's various geographic regions and its principal economic and legal systems.

UNCITRAL plays an important role in developing the legal framework for the facilitation of international trade and investment, which is of key importance in an increasingly economically interdependent world. The Commission has developed legislative and non-legislative instruments in key areas of commercial law, such as dispute resolution, transport, insolvency, electronic commerce, banking and finance, secured transactions, publicly financed infrastructure projects, procurement and sale of goods. These instruments are negotiated through an international process involving a variety of participants, including the 60 Member States of UNCITRAL, non-Member States and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. As a result of this process, UNCITRAL texts are widely acceptable as offering solutions appropriate to different legal traditions and to countries at different stages of economic development.

Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia

(established in 1974)

UNCITRAL technical cooperation and assistance is mainly aimed at supporting developing countries and countries in transition in their implementation of national law reforms in the commercial law field. The goal is to strengthen local capacities in those countries, to facilitate the development of international trade and promote investment, including foreign investment, in order to foster sustainable economic growth at country level. UNCITRAL activities include: briefing missions and training assistance; law reform assessments to assist governments, legislative organs and other authorities to review existing legislation; assistance with the drafting of national legislation to implement UNCITRAL texts; assistance to international development agencies to use UNCITRAL texts in their law reform activities and projects; advice and assistance to international and other organizations, such as professional associations, organizations of attorneys, chambers of commerce and arbitration centres, on the use of UNCITRAL texts.

The demand for UNCITRAL technical cooperation and assistance in the areas noted above has grown dramatically in recent years. The conduct of these activities is dependent upon the Trust Fund and thus upon the voluntary contributions received each year, since UNCITRAL regular budget does not include funds for this purpose. Financial support may be earmarked for specific projects or just take the form of general contribution. In the past few years contributions have considerably decreased thus jeopardising UNCITRAL capacity to respond to developing countries' requests

beyond the end of 2007 and prompting the Commission and the General Assembly to make repeated appeals to UN member states to consider supporting this strategic area.

Trust Fund for Travel Assistance to Developing States Members of UNCITRAL (established in 1994)

To ensure that the process of formulating international trade laws and rules is representative of the interests of member States, including differing legal traditions and states of economic development, it is highly desirable that all member States have the opportunity to participate in UNCITRAL deliberations and intergovernmental working groups. UNCITRAL recognizes and stresses the importance of the participation in its work, on a continuing basis, of experts from developing countries. The Trust Fund was established to facilitate participation from least developed countries members of the Commission and, on an exceptional basis, from other developing countries members of the Commission. The assistance is provided, at the request of the country concerned, in the form of full or partial payment of a delegate's travel expenses and standard daily subsistence allowance. Contributions to the Trust Fund have enabled the approval of only six requests for assistance since the inception of the Fund.

United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP)

Working in 167 countries through its network of 136 country offices, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helps countries develop capacities to build a better life and achieve sustainable human development; advocating and building local capacities; connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources; and working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

The second multi-year funding framework (MYFF) of UNDP establishes goals and intended organizational results over a four-year period ending 2007. The MYFF focuses UNDP activities on six core goals: a) achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty; b) fostering democratic governance; c) managing energy and environment for sustainable development; d) supporting crisis prevention and recovery; and e) responding to HIV/AIDS. Poverty reduction and democratic governance accounted respectively for 25 and 46 percent of total UNDP programme expenditures in 2005, while 45% of regular resources were allocated to Africa. There is an increasing demand for and a growing role of UNDP in conflict prevention and recovery. Gender is a cross-cutting development theme, which is fully reflected in all of UNDP's programming as a key development driver.

UNDP administers the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV). UNDP has been entrusted to manage and fund the Resident

Coordinator system, chairs the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), and collaborates closely with other UN agencies, within the context of a country-driven United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

The MYFF 2004-2007 reaffirmed the target contribution of $1.1 billion for core resources set out in UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision 98/23, including interim annual targets. UNDP regular resources grew for the fifth consecutive year in 2005, following a 6 year downward trend that was reversed in 2001. Contributions towards UNDP regular resources in 2005 reached $921 million, thus meeting the MYFF interim target and securing core funding levels not seen since 1995. According to current projections, regular resources are expected to exceed $950 million in 2006, an indication that the overall $1.1 billion MYFF target for an adequate funding base by 2007 remains within reach provided that there is increased and sustained financial support towards core resources. However, uneven burden sharing and predictability remain areas of concern.

In 2005 contributions to other (non-core) resources totaled $3.8 billion. These contributions comprise bilateral co-financing from OECD/DAC donors, resources entrusted to UNDP by non-bilateral partners, and those provided to UNDP by programme country governments. Core resources, as recognized by the Executive Board, are the bedrock of UNDP's mandate. Non-core resources represent earmarked contributions to specific themes, programmes activities and/or geographic areas. UNDP's ability to mobilize such resources depends entirely on the existence of an adequate and secure regular funding base. The 2006 United Nations Pledging

Conference for Development Activities is an important opportunity for those countries that have not yet done so to pledge for 2006 so as to consolidate the regular resource base of UNDP.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

(UNCDF)

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) makes investments in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These investments are designed to help the LDCs reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNCDF currently invests in 28 of the LDCs and focuses its investments on Local Development and Microfinance. Its Local Development Programmes provide local communities with access to social services and economic infrastructure. Its microfinance investments provide enhanced access to financial services and direct support for start-up and emerging microfinance institutions.

UNCDF has identified specific programmatic investments amounting to approximately $50 million in 2007. Planned investments are set forth by Practice Area (Local Development and Microfinance), by country, and by region. The plan is based on the requirements of its existing programmes and on the needs of programmes that have already been identified. Investments would be made in 45 LDCs, including 28 in Africa, 13 in Asia, 3 in the Arab States, and one in the Caribbean. Of these LDCs, about 50% are Post-Conflict and more than 50% are Landlocked or Small Island

countries. As a percentage of total programme investments, 69% would be in Africa, 22% in Asia, 7% in the Arab States and the remaining 2% in Haiti. These investments include earmarked and nonearmarked funds and do not include any of the $5 million in UNCDF administrative costs that UNDP mainstreamed in its 2006-2007 biennium budget.

Discussion at recent meetings of the UNDP/UNCDF Executive Board have made clear that the donor base for UNCDF must be expanded and that existing donors should be encouraged to increase their financial support. While its key donors remain enthusiastic, several also have expressed the view that the financial burden of supporting UNCDF must be shared among the Member States more equitably. This is particularly true with respect to nonearmarked funds. These funds are not designated for particular projects or purposes. They provide UNCDF with the greatest programmatic and administrative flexibility. They also enhance its ability to plan and to attract earmarked funds. With these considerations in mind, UNCDF is seeking to raise *at least $10 million in new nonearmarked funds in 2007.*

United Nations Development Fund for Women

(UNIFEM)

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is an operational organization dedicated to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Through technical support at the national level and through the UN Resident

Coordinator system, it promotes innovative, gender-sensitive strategies and programmes to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including but not limited to Goal 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, bringing these into alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA).

In January 2004, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board (DP/2004/10) approved the UNIFEM Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF) 2004-2007, which positions UNIFEM to fulfil its mandate to support countries to achieve gender equality in the context of the MDGs and in line with UN reform, the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) resolution (A/RES/59/250)[1] and the changing modalities related to aid effectiveness. It outlines four programmatic goals for the achievement of women's human rights:

- Reducing feminized poverty and exclusion;
- Ending violence against women;
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls;
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in conflict and non-conflict countries.

To achieve these goals, in the context of the MDGs, UNIFEM's results-based framework focuses on building capacity in implementation and accountability.

[1] The resolution states that "the United Nations development system [should] avail itself of the technical

UNIFEM strengthens the gender equality dimension in UN reform, and supports mainstreaming a gender and human rights approach in the field. UNIFEM's field presence is enhanced through numerous MOUs with UN agencies such as UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA; by programme collaborations and partnerships with the UN, civil society and the private sector. UNIFEM pilots initiatives that can be scaled up and replicated by government, civil society, UN partners, and the private sector.

In line with Secretary-General's UN reform agenda, UNIFEM supports strengthened inter-agency coordination to achieve gender equality within the UN system, working through 15 Regional Programme Directors, with sub-regional responsibilities on system-wide modalities such as CCA/UNDAF and PRSPs. In 2005, UNIFEM contributed to CCA/UNDAF processes in 37 countries, to MDG processes in 32, and chaired 15 gender theme groups, while participating in numerous others where there is no UNIFEM office. In addition, UNIFEM chairs the UNDG Task Team on Gender Equality (consisting of 15 UN agencies) formed as a follow-up to the TCPR resolution. Its recommendations for increasing accountability in the UNCT were endorsed by the UNDG Principals.

Under the leadership of its Executive Director, Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM's programmes and resources have expanded to meet steadily increasing demand. In 2005, total contributions to UNIFEM increased by $6.1 million reaching a record high of $57.6 million, compared to $51.1 million in 2004. However, while UNIFEM exceeded its overall MYFF target for the year of $43.4 million, 2005 core contributions did not

---

experience of [UNIFEM] on gender issues".

keep pace with the projections in UNIFEM's MYFF: In 2005, UNIFEM raised a total of $22 million for its vital core costs, against the $25.4 million anticipated in the UNIFEM MYFF. In fact, core contributions were lower than the $23 million secured in 2004.

UNIFEM is responsible for raising all of its own resources. Increased donor support, especially to core, is critical to enable UNIFEM to respond to requests for technical assistance and support in its areas of comparative advantage in supporting the Millennium Development Goals and advancing gender equality. It is critical that in this pivotal year, during which UNIFEM marks its 30th anniversary, for donors to demonstrate their support to UNIFEM's work and ensure that the growth targets contained in its MYFF are fully met.

United Nations Volunteers

(UNV)

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers. The central tenet of UNV's mission today is to ensure that the contribution of volunteerism to enhancing development effectiveness and human well-being is maximized. In 2005, some 8100 UNV volunteers representing more than 165 nationalities offered their skills and experience to support national and local development efforts in more than 140 countries. In addition, UNV engages thousands of other individuals in the work of the

United Nations as Online Volunteers and manages the WorldVolunteerWeb, a global volunteering portal that serves as a knowledge resource base for advocacy, campaigning, information dissemination and networking.

At the heart of UNV is the conviction that voluntary action by millions of people is a vastly under-recognized and under-utilized resource, one that if fully harnessed could strengthen efforts in tackling development challenges worldwide. UNV's focus is on advocating globally for volunteerism for development (V4D), integrating volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers. To this end, UNV's activities support: (i) achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty; (ii) fostering democratic governance; (iii) promoting energy and environmental policies that drive sustainable development forward; (iv) strengthening resources to prevent and respond to crises; and (v) fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS. There are three areas of distinctive contributions that characterize UNV's work. It is in those areas where the application of the V4D concept can make a particular and unique difference to capacity building. The first focuses on enabling disadvantaged groups and communities to gain wider access to opportunities and services and to enhance the delivery of these services. The second focuses on inclusion and participation and involves promoting the involvement of all stakeholders, in particular the disadvantaged, in processes that affect their well-being. The third distinctive contribution focuses on community mobilization through voluntary action.

The total financial equivalent of activities has now reached some $ 170 million per year. Of this, some three per cent was financed from the UNV Special Voluntary

Fund (SVF). Although small, the importance of the SVF, as the primary means through which UNV can continuously develop innovative approaches to maximize the relevance and effectiveness of its work, cannot be overemphasized. While voluntary contributions reached $4.9 million in 2005, this falls far short of the optimal level of $10 million per annum. It is crucial that Member Governments continue to demonstrate their commitment to and confidence in the UNV programme through increased official support to the SVF.

Drylands Development Center

(formerly UNDP's Office to Combat Desertification and Drought)

The Drylands Development Centre is UNDP's Centre dedicated to working with people to fight poverty in the drylands of the world. The Centre was established in 2002 as part of UNDP's decentralized network of policy advisors.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) constitutes an important platform for sustained and coordinated action in the world's drylands. UNDP has since 1995, supported 60 countries affected by desertification and drought in the implementation of the convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). In 2002, UNDP launched the integrated drylands development programme (IDDP) in an attempt to assist countries address challenges faced in the implementation of the CCD and to build upon achievements in the process so far. The integrated programme focuses on helping countries in (i) ensuring that issues that affect the drylands are addressed by

macro-economic policies; (ii) reducing vulnerability to climatic shocks and improving adaptation to climate change; and (iii) improving local governance for natural resource management.

The Drylands Development Centre is one of the three UNDP thematic Centres around the world. The Centre works through UNDP country offices, the primary agents through which the organization's support is delivered to programme countries. The work of the Centre is undertaken through a global unit in Nairobi and four regional offices attached to Sub-Regional Facilities (SURFs) in Beirut, Dakar, Pretoria, and San Jose.

The work of the Drylands Development Centre is financed through voluntary contributions to the UNDP Trust Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought. As a catalytic compliment to the core resources of UNDP, the Trust Fund is the main vehicle for supporting affected developing countries in their effort to combat desertification and implement the CCD. The decline in resources over the last few years has hampered the Centre's ability to support affected countries. The Administrator therefore hopes that all partners will respond appropriately to enable the Drylands Development Centre to continue its work effectively.

Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The PGTF has a core capital of six million dollars. The initial capital of five million dollars was allocated following the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund in 1983, in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 38/201. In 2004, a one million dollars contribution by a country member of the Group of 77 increased the core capital to six million dollars.

The PGTF provides financial support to small-scale projects of cooperative nature among developing countries members of the Group of 77. Preference is given to projects that have the largest country coverage, in particular interregional or regional projects. These projects are carried out utilizing technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) modalities. Eligible areas are the priorities set out in the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC, namely trade, food and agriculture, energy, industrialization, raw materials, finance, technology, and TCDC, as well as in the Havana Programme of Action in the areas of South-South cooperation. The Caracas Programme of Action was adopted in 1981 by a high-level conference of the Group of 77 and represents the framework for action by the Group in the field of South-South cooperation. The Havana Programme of Action was adopted in 2000 by the First South Summit and included new priority areas for South-South cooperation, in particular with regard to social matters.

The administration of the PGTF resources is highly conservative. According to the guidelines for the utilization of its resources, only interest earned can be used for supporting projects, while the core capital should be kept intact. The accounting and administration of the monies is carried out by the UNDP according to their established rules and procedures. Project proposals are examined by a committee constituted by six elected experts from the three regions of the Group of 77 acting in their personal capacities. Following a positive recommendations by the Committee of Experts, the projects are approved by the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held in New York at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly. Disbursements of funds and administrative follow-up are carried out by the UNDP.

Since the launching of its operations in 1986, the Fund has provided support to 157 projects and US$ 9.2 million were allocated to this end. A breakdown of the support by areas is as follows: food and agriculture 30 percent; consulting services, training and other TCDC activities 24 percent; trade 18 percent; information exchange and dissemination 8 percent; technology 9 percent; other 1 percent. Approved projects have benefited a large number of developing countries as well as institutions and people within these countries, as indicated by the breakdown of the country coverage of projects: interregional 42 percent; sub-regional 42 percent; and regional 15 percent.

In order to make the Fund more relevant to developing countries' needs, it is necessary to expand its core resources to approximately double of the current amount. Additional resources are being sought to this end.

Detailed and up-to-date information on the Fund can be found in the Web page of the Group of 77 (www.g77.org). In particular, it refers to requirements and procedures for submission of proposals, criteria for project eligibility, as well as appraisal and approval mechanisms; the reports of the 21 meetings of the Committee of Experts held since 1987; information on completed projects and contributions received by the Fund from member countries of the Group of 77.

United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) is the extra-budgetary financial arm of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and provides funds for UN-Habitat's activities not covered by the United Nations regular budget resources. The Foundation has traditionally served as a repository of voluntary contributions by Member States for the implementation of the work programme. However, since 2004 it serves additionally as a special vehicle for mobilizing investment for shelter, and infrastructure initiatives by assisting Member States to catalyze public and private capital for follow-up investment. The focus of the activities is on promoting sustainable urbanization and the reduction of urban poverty. UN-Habitat's programme for the current biennium places specific emphasis on urban governance, slum upgrading, urban water and sanitation and disaster management. These activities are carried out at the global, regional, national and local levels and involve capacity building, monitoring, advocacy, and partnership building through a combination of normative and operational activities.

The resources of the UNHHSF come mainly from annual voluntary contributions by Member States. Since 1973, when initial support came from less than 20 countries, the number of countries contributing to the UNHHSF has risen to approximately 60 countries and voluntary pledges made during the 2004-2005 biennium amounted to approximately US$80 million, including contributions for earmarked activities. Most significantly, almost 30 developing countries contributed over the same biennium to the

UNHHSF. However, total contributions to the Foundation are not yet sufficient to undertake the increasing volume of responsibilities that has been entrusted to UN-Habitat by the international community. This includes the follow-up on the implementation of the Habitat II Conference and to assist in achieving targets 10 and 11 of the Millennium Development Goals on the sustainable access to safe drinking water and bringing significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. The 2005 World Summit Outcome in its paragraph 56(m), has recognized the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing–related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and encouraged support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility. To enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in improving the human settlements conditions, a substantial increase in the financial resources to the UNHHSF is urgently required. The total resources that are required for the 2006-2007 biennium against the UNHHSF amount to US$ 99 million.

Following the upgrading of UN-Habitat to a UN Programme through resolution 56/206 in December 2001 and the legislative mandates adopted by the General Assembly through the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (resolution S-25/2), the mandate and status of UN-Habitat has been strengthened. While urban poverty reduction remains at the heart of UN-Habitat's work programme, attention is also being given to monitoring and research activities to support the efforts of Member States to monitor the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as the MDG slum targets, and to analyze policies and publish the results in UN-Habitat's two flagship

reports, the Global Report on Human Settlements and the State of the World Cities Report.

United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

(UNTFAD)

The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) was created in 1977 by Resolution 288 (XII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers as an expansion of collective self-reliance and support for their development. The main objective of the Trust Fund is to finance operational activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that are not funded by the regular budget, although derived from the approved work programme of ECA or its Sub-Regional Offices (SROs). Contributions to the Fund are made on a voluntary basis by African member States and their development partners, including governments of non-African countries and foundations. The resources made available to ECA through the Trust Fund have served to finance projects, mostly as seed money to start off activities.

Since its creation, Pledging Conferences for the Fund have been organized every two years, in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning. However, in May 1995, the Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 808 (XXX) on strengthening the operational capacity of ECA, which requested that the Pledging Conference be merged with the Annual General Pledging Conference of the United Nations in New York.

The Fund has supported ECA in initiating various activities centered around its nine sub-programmes namely: facilitating economic and social policy analysis; fostering sustainable development; strengthening development management; harnessing

information for development; promoting trade and regional integration; promoting the advancement of women; supporting sub-regional activities for development; development planning and administration; and statistics. The UNTFAD is particularly important in the face of the new ECA Business Plan, which clearly articulates the ECA strategic direction and programme in the next three years (2007 – 2009). The Business Plan was jointly launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union in November 2006.

United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing

The United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/129 in connection with the preparations for the first World Assembly on Ageing in 1982 and to support its follow up. Following the convening of the second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, the fund provides financial support for actions to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the national and international levels. The fund supports a DESA technical cooperation initiative that works with national authorities to build national capacity on ageing issues, including identifying national implementation issues and priorities, assessing national needs and available infrastructure, identifying resources, and producing strategy guidelines to mainstream ageing into national development agendas.

In its resolution 61/142 the General Assembly stressed the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and in this connection encouraged Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request. No new contributions from Governments have been received yet since the Plan of Action was adopted. To enable the Trust Fund to function on a sustainable basis and continue to make important contribution to international cooperation in the area of ageing-- in normative, analytical and technical cooperation fields-- it is highly desirable to increase the resource base of

the Fund, particularly given the high prominence and international significance of the Fifth Anniversary of the Madrid Plan and numerous events undertaken in this context.

United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability

Equalization of opportunities by, with, and for persons with disability

The Fund was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/133. By its resolution 47/88, the General Assembly decided that the Fund would continue in the period beyond the Decade as the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, and that its terms of reference would include support for action to achieve the target of a "Society for all" by the year 2010, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/91.

In line with the guidance of the General Assembly, the activities supported by the Fund have capacity building and institutional development as principal functions. With an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population experiencing some form of disability, the Fund directs special attention to supporting catalytic and innovative action, which will: (a) promote greater awareness of disability issues and exchanges of knowledge and experience; (b) build national capacities and institutional capabilities for integrated policies and programmes in the disability field and for national disability legislation; (c) facilitate pilot efforts; and (d) promote wide dissemination of appropriate disability technologies.

In December 2006 the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As the activities supporting the Convention process and in preparation for the Convention implementation are being scaled up, the availability of dedicated funding through the Voluntary Fund on Disability is of increasing importance. More information on the Voluntary Fund on Disability can be found on the following webpage: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disunvf.htm

United Nations Youth Fund

The United Nations Youth Fund was established in 1981 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/126. The General Assembly, in adopting resolution 50/81 containing the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, acknowledged that the "United Nations Youth Fund represents a unique resource to support catalytic and innovative action concerning youth". The Fund has disbursed grants in three main areas: national youth policies of a cross-sectoral nature; follow-up and implementation of the World Youth Forum; and follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. A major focus has been to support youth participation.

For the period 2004-2007, the Fund has supported the convening of consultative meetings with youth organizations and youth representatives to seek views and review achievements made since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 1995, in preparation for the review by the General Assembly in October 2005 of its

implementation. The outcomes of these consultations included enhanced mechanisms for engaging youth in discussions of the international development issues, improved direct contributions of youth to the work of the UN, especially the supplement to the report of the Secretary-General and World Youth Report 2005. The Fund has also supported the travel and related costs, as well as the cost of participation of consultants who provided input into an Expert Group Meeting on "Development Challenges of Young People." This Workshop's made major contributions to the preparation of the World Youth Report 2007, thus establishing the Youth Trust Fund as an important source of funding for core activities of the Youth Programme.

For the Fund to continue to make its unique contribution to international cooperation with an emphasis on the development objectives of the World Programme of Action for Youth, it is critical that its resource base be appropriately strengthened on a sustained basis, particularly in support of activities aimed at creating youth employment (as foreseen in Millennium Development Goal 8), in the preparation of future World Youth Reports, and in the participation of youth representatives in the General Assembly and sessions of the Commission for Social Development. Governments in a position to do so are requested to pledge their support to enhance the core resources of the Fund in support of the Secretariat's system-wide efforts to promote integrated youth policies.

United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

In its resolution 50/142 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly of the United Nations renamed the Voluntary Fund for the 1994 International Year of the Family as the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities, and called for the continuation of its operations. The Trust Fund on Family Activities provides support to research, seminars and projects aiming to promote the objectives of the International Year of the Family, which continue to form the basis for policies and programmes in support of families.

Support to projects from the Fund are in the form of small grants and support practical action by governments and by non-governmental organizations, with the special focus on least developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Areas of project grant funding include activities of a pilot nature or which form part of larger development initiatives that aim at building national capacities and institutional capabilities for improved livelihood and well-being of families; public information, awareness building and related communications support measures concerned with the situation of families in the context of national development; and training and applied advisory services on emerging issues and trends, assessments of their implications for families, and evaluations of strategies, policies and programmes.

Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues:

the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

In accordance with General Assembly Resolution A59/174, the terms of reference of this Trust Fund include the funding of activities relating to the Second International Decade and will serve as a successor to the Voluntary Fund for the First Decade pursuant to General Assembly Resolutions 48/163, 49/214, and 50/157. Its aim is to support the implementation of the objectives and Program of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples by providing financial assistance to programmes and projects that advance the goal of the Second International Decade, which is to "strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities." Indigenous peoples' organizations or organizations working for indigenous peoples can apply for small grants from the Trust Fund.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established in 1985 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131, with the purpose of providing indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities in international forums and thereby contribute to the development of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. The fund is administered by the UN Secretary-General acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees composed of indigenous representatives.

In 2006, the fund received approximately $459,000 from 13 donors, an increase of more than $258,000 over 2005. In addition, the secretariat received a total of 517 admissible applications. With the resources available, it was able to allocate 127 travel grants. In the Board's view, in order to be able to make recommendations for an adequate participation of indigenous representatives and to satisfy the new applications envisaged for 2007, the Fund would need new contributions amounting to at least $756,560 before the next session of the Board, scheduled to be held in February 2008. At its nineteenth session, the Board also recommended expanding the mandate of the Fund to include financial support for human rights projects as well as travel grants to support indigenous peoples participation in meetings of human rights treaty bodies.

Detailed information on the Fund is available in the biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund (A/61/376). Governments, non-

governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. Information on how to contribute can be obtained from the secretariat of the Fund at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Research and Rights to Development Branch, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Tel. (41-22) 928 97 37/ 928 9164, Fax (41-22) 917 90 08, Email: Indigenousfunds@ohchr.org.

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established under General Assembly resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991. The Fund assists representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions, dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance; and to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. It should be noted that the Human Rights Council has now abolished the Working Group and a decision will be taken at its next sessions on any future mechanism relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

The Fund disburses small grants to projects that provide humanitarian, legal, and financial assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery in all regions of the world. These projects address a variety of related issues, including trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, child labour and bonded labour. Many of the projects target women and children victims of slavery. Those projects targeting child victims of slavery or bonded labourers often aim to provide victims with assistance in returning to school or with non-formal and vocational training. Other projects aim to establish welcome centres for victims of trafficking, which can provide comprehensive assistance, including housing, food, legal aid, psycho-social support, and medical care. Many projects also include an awareness-raising component that targets the general public.

Applications for grants amounting to approximately $1,688,482 were received in 2006. The Board was able to recommend grants totaling approximately $269,200. In the Board's view, in order to be able to fulfill its mandate and to satisfy the new applications envisaged for 2007, the Fund would need new contributions amounting to at least $793,500 before the thirteenth session of the Board scheduled to be held in 2008. At its eleventh session, the Board recommended that a global review of the Fund be undertaken to evaluate its impact and functioning more than a decade after it was established. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services submitted its review of the Fund in June 2007. Copies of the OIOS report can be obtained from the secretariat of the Voluntary Fund. The measures taken by the secretariat of the Fund to implement those recommendations will be described in the next report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty third session.

Detailed information concerning the twelfth session of the Board of Trustees can be found in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty second session.

Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. Information on how to contribute can be obtained from the secretariat of the Fund at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Research and Rights to Development Branch, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Tel. (41-22) 928 97 37/ 928 9164, Fax (41-22) 917 90 08, Email: SlaveryFund@ohchr.org.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

In May 1981, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for the purpose of distributing, through established channels of assistance, aid to victims of torture and their relatives, and decided that the Fund would be administered by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees (res. 36/151). In accordance with arrangements adopted by the General Assembly in the same resolution, the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the management of the Fund, indicating contributions received, and pledges made, as well as project grants disbursed from the Fund.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/153 of 19 December 2006, appealed to all States and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably with a substantial increase in the level of contributions.

At its 25th session, which was held from 5 to 11 April 2006, the Board of Trustees examined requests for funding totaling US$11. 3 million for the year 2006 received from organizations assisting victims of torture worldwide. However, the Board was in a position to make recommendations for new grants totaling US$8.8 million for the period July 2006 to December 2007, taking into account the change in the funding cycle of the Fund. The grants recommended will help assist victims of torture and members of their families worldwide through organizations implementing projects providing psychological, medical, social, legal, economic and other forms of humanitarian assistance in approximately 70 countries. The Board held its 26th session from 5 to 9 February 2007 to discuss policy issues and allocate grants to projects identified in priority regions, namely in Africa, Asia and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Grants amounting to US$399,000 were recommended for thirteen new projects from these regions. The Board will hold its 27th session from 22 to 26 October 2007 to allocate grants for the period January to December 2008.

Detailed information will be available in the next annual report of the Secretary-General on the Fund to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session (last reports were A/61/226, A/HRC/4/066). For more information, please contact the Fund's Secretariat at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

telephone (41.22) 917.93.15, fax (41.22) 917.90.17, e-mail: unvfvt@ohchr.org, website:

http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/torture/.